

Application No. 10/666,904

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1892

I. LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A ferromagnetic core having ~~[[an]~~ a imaginary longitudinal centerline and comprising:

a stack of individual flat laminations arranged parallel to the centerline, ~~wherein two of the laminations bound the stack~~ being bounded on two opposing sides by a lamination having a flat outer face, the flat outer faces defining opposing sides of the core;

~~each lamination comprises opposite~~ of the stack having opposing longitudinal edges, the opposing longitudinal edges being tapered inwardly substantially along their length toward ~~that are non-parallel to the centerline; and~~

the longitudinal edges of adjacent ones of the laminations varying in height from the centerline and cooperating to form the core with a substantially frustoconical shape between the profile; ~~and the zones are separated by flat outer faces of the two laminations bounding the stack.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The ferromagnetic core as set forth in Claim 16 in which some of the laminations comprise tabs projecting outward from their longitudinal edges beyond the frustoconical profile shape.

18. (Original) The ferromagnetic core as set forth in Claim 17 in which the opposite longitudinal edges of the two laminations bounding the stack comprise such tabs at their proximal ends.

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19. (Currently Amended) The A ferromagnetic core having an imaginary a longitudinal centerline running from a proximal end to a distal end and comprising:

a stack of individual flat laminations arranged parallel to the centerline, ~~wherein two of the laminations bound the stack being bounded on two opposing sides by~~ a lamination having a flat outer face, the flat outer faces defining opposing sides of the core;

~~each lamination comprises opposite of the stack having opposing~~ longitudinal edges that ~~form~~ define the core with ~~a defined longitudinal profile and~~ circumferential zones that are separated by the flat outer faces of the two laminations bounding the stack, the opposing longitudinal edges of each lamination being tapered inward toward the centerline along the length of the lamination from the proximal end to the distal end; and

~~some~~ at least one of the laminations ~~comprise including tabs projecting~~ outward from ~~their~~ its longitudinal edges beyond the ~~defined longitudinal profile~~ circumferential zones.

20. (Currently Amended) The ferromagnetic core as set forth in Claim 19 wherein the tabs are included in which the opposite longitudinal edges of the two laminations bounding the stack ~~comprise such tabs at their proximal ends.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The ferromagnetic core as set forth in Claim 20 ~~in which the opposite longitudinal edges~~ wherein a plurality of the laminations comprise tabs in that contact with the tabs of the two laminations bounding the stack.

22. (Currently Amended) The ferromagnetic core as set forth in Claim 21 ~~in which the defined longitudinal profile is described by an imaginary frustum~~ 19

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wherein the circumferential zones define a frustoconical shape that tapers radially inward
toward the distal end.

23-32. (Cancelled)

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